

Bond's number is up: black female actor 'is the new 007'



While Daniel Craig is set to reprise his role as James Bond in ___ next film, the franchise is set for ___ shake-up, with reports claiming that black British actor Lashana Lynch has been cast as 007 – taking over Bond's secret agent number after his character leaves M16.

The Mail has quoted from ___ anonymous "movie insider", who says that ___ 25th film opens with Bond (Craig), retired in ___ Jamaica, being called back to action to fight ___ new villain.

"There is ___ pivotal scene at ___ start of the film where M says, "Come in 007", and in walks Lashana who is black, beautiful and ___ woman," ___ source said. "It's ___ popcorn-dropping moment. Bond is still Bond but he's been replaced as 007."

Originally from West London, Lynch, 31, made her film debut in 2011's *Fast Girls*, but her breakthrough role came earlier this year, as fighter pilot Maria Rambeau in *Captain Marvel*.

___ news of her being given Bond's famous code name has been widely praised on social media, coming weeks after US singer Halle Bailey was cast as Ariel in Disney's live action remake of the *Little Mermaid*.

___ 25th Bond film – which is being shot in ___ Italy and ___ UK – has been plagued by difficulties, beginning in October 2015 when Craig said he would "rather slash my wrists" than play Bond again. In 2017, he confirmed he had relented, but, ___ same year, director Danny Boyle – who had been brought in to replace Sam Mendes, after Mendes refused to direct any more Bond films – also left, citing ___ dispute over ___ script.

American Cary Fukunaga was hired to replace them, and ___ film cycled through a series of script writers before Craig requested *Fleabag*'s Phoebe Waller-Bridge – only ___ second female writer in ___ history of the franchise – be brought in to polish it up.

Waller-Bridge is quoted in the *Daily Mail* as saying, "There's been a lot of talk about whether or not Bond is relevant now because of who he is and the way he treats women. I think that's bollocks. I think he's absolutely relevant now."

"[The franchise] has just got to grow. It has just got to evolve, and the important thing is that ___ film treats the women properly. He doesn't have to. He needs to be true to his character."

Bond producer Barbara Broccoli told the *Guardian* last year that there would "never" be ___ female Bond.